

US Congress 1988 Election Study

Methodology:

Total Sample: 642

Variables:

Variable Name:	Question Asked:	Coded As:
Hvote	Which party did you vote for in the most recent House election?	The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.
	1 Democrats 2 Republicans	
Retnat	Now thinking about the economy: Would you say that over the past year the nation's economy has gotten better, stayed about the same or gotten worse?	Recoded such that:
	Would you say much better or somewhat better? Would you say much worse or somewhat worse?	1 got somewhat or much better 2 stayed the same 3 got a little worse 4 got much worse
	1 Much better 2 Somewhat better 3 Stayed same 4 Somewhat worse 5 Much worse 8 DK much or somewhat better/worse 9 NA much or somewhat better/worse 0 INAP, DK/NA if better or worse;	The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing. This variable is recoded so that there are three dummy variables representing: _Iretnat_1 – Got better _Iretnat_2 – Stayed the same _Iretnat_3 – Got worse
Age	What is the month, day and year of your birth?	Age is year as coded.
Educ	What is highest grade of school or year of college you have completed?	Recoded such that:
	1 Grade school or less (0-8 grades) 2 High school (12 grades or fewer, incl. non-college training if applicable) 3 Some College (13 grades or more but no degree) 4 College or advanced degree 0 DK; NA	0 Grade school or less (0-8 grades) 1 High school (12 grades or fewer, incl. non-college training if applicable) 2 Some College (13 grades or more but no degree) 3 College or advanced

		degree
		The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing. Recoded such that:
Income	1972-1990, 1992 long-form, 1994-later: Please look at this card/page and tell me the letter of the income group that includes the income of all members of your family living here in <previous year> before taxes. This figure should include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest, and all other income. (IF UNCERTAIN:) What would be your best guess?	0 0 to 16 percentile 1 17 to 33 percentile 2 34 to 67 percentile 3 68 to 95 percentile 4 96 to 100 percentile
	1992 short form: Can you give us an estimate of your total family income in 1991 before taxes? This figure should include salaries, wages, pensions, dividends, interest and all other income for every member of your family living in your house in 1991. First could you tell me if that was above or below \$24,999? (IF UNCERTAIN: what would be your best guess?) (IF ABOVE/BELOW \$24,999:) I will read you some income categories, could you please stop me when I reach the category that corresponds to your family situation?	
Occupation OccupB1 OccupB3	What is your main occupation [What sort of work do you do?] What are your most important activities or duties? (IF R IS RETIRED/UNEMPLOYED/DISABLED:) What kind of work did you do on your last regular job [What was your occupation?] What were your most important activities or duties?	OccupB1 coded such that: 0 All other occupations 1 Professional and Managerial, Clerical and sales workers and Farmers, Farm Managers, Farm Laborers and Foremen; Forestry and Fishermen
	1 Professional and managerial 2 Clerical and sales workers 3 Skilled, semi-skilled and service workers 4 Laborers, except farm 5 Farmers, farm managers, farm laborers and foremen; forestry and fishermen	OccupB3 coded such that: 0 All other Occupations

	6 Homemakers 0 NA; member of armed forces; INAP.	1 Homemakers
Presapp	Do you approve of the way the president is handling his job?	
	1 Strongly Approve 2 Approve 3 Disapprove 4 Strongly Disapprove	
Union	Do you or anyone else in this household belong to a labor union?	Recorded such that:
	1 Yes, someone (1948: head) in household belongs to a labor union 2 No, no one in household belongs to a labor union 0 DK; NA; INAP	0 No 1 Yes The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.
Female	Sex of respondent 1. Male 2. Female	Recorded such that: 0 Male 1 Female
Black	1948-1998: Race determined by interviewer observation. 1 White 2 Black	Recorded such that: 0 White 1 Black
Church	Lots of things come up that keep people from attending religious services even if they want to. Thinking about your life these days, do you ever attend religious services, apart from occasional weddings, baptisms or funerals? Do you go to religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?	Recorded such that: 0 never, don’t know, NA or INAP 1 once or twice a month & a few times a year 2 almost every week 3 every week
	1 Every week 2 Almost every week 3 Once or twice a month 4 A few times a year 5 Never 7 No religious preference (1970-1988) 8 DK how often/ DK if attend 9 NA how often/ NA if attend	

0 INAP religion

South

Region Codings are as follows:

Recoded such that:

1 Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)
2 North Central (IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)
3 South (AL, AR, DE, D.C., FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV)
4 West (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY)

1 Northeast
2 North Central
3 South
4 West

Pid

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?
Would you call yourself a strong (REP/DEM) or a not very strong (REP/DEM)? (IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic party?

Recoded such that:

1 Strong Democrat
2 Weak Democrat
3 Independent - Democrat
4 Independent - Independent
5 Independent - Republican
6 Weak Republican
7 Strong Republican

The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.

libcon

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a 7-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale, or haven't you thought much about this?

Recoded such that:

The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.

Abort96

There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which one of the opinions on this page best agrees with your view? You can just tell me the number of the opinion you choose.

Recoded such that:

1 By law, abortion should never be permitted.

0 By law, abortion should never be permitted.
1 The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.

<p>2 The law should permit abortion only in case of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is in danger.</p> <p>3 The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.</p> <p>4 By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.</p> <p>9 DK; other</p> <p>0 NA; INAP.</p>	<p>2 The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.</p> <p>3 By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.</p> <p>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.</p>
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Defsp96

<p>Some people believe that we should spend much less money for defense. Others feel that defense spending should be greatly increased. Where would you place yourself on this scale or haven't you thought much about this?</p> <p>1 Greatly decrease defense spending</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 Greatly increase defense spending.</p> <p>9 DK; haven't thought much about it</p>	<p>Recoded such that:</p> <p>-3 Greatly decrease defense spending</p> <p>-2</p> <p>-1</p> <p>0</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 Greatly increase defense spending.</p> <p>The “don’t know” and “refused” categories are recoded as missing.</p>
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Trust

<p>People have different ideas about the government in Washington. These ideas don't refer to Democrats or Republicans in particular, but just to government in general. We want to see how you feel about these ideas.</p> <p>How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time or only some of the time?</p> <p>Would you say the government is pretty</p>	<p>Factor scores resulting from factor analysis of the four variables</p> <p>Factor Loadings</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>.53</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>.58</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>.50</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>.54</td></tr> </table> <p>First factor: Eigenvalue of 1.17.</p>	1	.53	2	.58	3	.50	4	.54
1	.53								
2	.58								
3	.50								
4	.54								

much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

Do you think that people in the government waste a lot of money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

Do you think that quite a few of the people running the government are crooked, not very many are, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?

Efficacy

Now I'd like to read some of the kinds of things people tell us when we interview them.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with them. I'll read them one at a time and you just tell me whether you agree or disagree:

"I don't think public officials care much what people like me think."

1 Agree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say, refused to say

"People like me don't have any say about what the government does."

1 Agree
2 Disagree
3 Neither agree nor disagree
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say, refused to say

"Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on."

1 Agree
2 Disagree

The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing.

Factor scores resulting from factor analysis of the three variables

Factor Loadings

1	.58
2	.59
3	.33

First factor: Eigenvalue of .79.

The "don't know" and "refused" categories are recoded as missing.

3 Neither agree nor disagree
9 DK; not sure; it depends; can't say,
refused to say

Data Acknowledgements: